

Pallikondeswara Temple, Surutupalle, Andhra Pradesh



**Shiva Temple at Suruttapalli, Andhra Pradesh (Near
Uthukkottai)**



A temple sculpture depicting the central icon

Ref: Wikipedia

Pallikondeswara Temple (also Pradosha kshetram) is a [Hindu temple](#) dedicated to the god [Shiva](#) located in [Surutupalle](#),^[1] a village in [Tirupati district](#) of [Andhra Pradesh](#), [India](#). The presiding deity Pallikondeswara, unlike other Shiva temples, is sported in reclining posture lying on the lap of his consort [Parvati](#).

The temple house a three-tiered gateway tower known as [gopurams](#). The temple has numerous shrines, with those of Valmeeswarar and Maragathambigai being the most prominent. The temple complex houses many halls and three precincts. The temple has six daily rituals at various times from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and five yearly festivals on its calendar. The Aipassi Annabishekam is the major festival in the temple. The temple was built by [Vijayanagara king](#) Harihara Bukka Raya (1344–47). In modern times, the temple is maintained and administered by State Institute of Temple Administration (SITA) of the [Government of Andhra Pradesh](#).

Legend

During the [Samudra manthan](#) (churning of the ocean of milk) by the gods and demons, many treasures along with the [Amrita](#) (elixir of the gods) and the poison [Halahala](#) rose from the ocean. To rescue the beings of the world from the poison, Shiva consumed it. When the poison was just going down the throat of Shiva, his consort Parvati stopped it there by tightly holding Shiva's throat, turning Shiva's neck blue. After the episode, Shiva proceeded to his abode [Kailash](#) with Parvati. On the way, he felt exhausted and slightly uncomfortable, when he reached a place in the bounds of Andhra, which came to be called Suruttappalli. There, he lay down to relax, keeping his head in the lap of Parvati. The gods, who were concerned

about Shiva's well-being, assembled there and stood around him, waiting for the Lord to open his eyes. This lying posture of Shiva is rare and unique, almost similar to Vishnu's reclining posture.^[2]

Architecture

The temple was built by [Vijayanagara king](#) Harihara Bukka Raya (1344–47). The temple has an inscription stating the temple was renovated by Kalahasti princess in 1833. Sri [Chandrashekarendra Saraswati](#) of [Kanchi Mutt](#) camped here for 40 days in 1976, he showed a place and asked people to dig it, when they did, they found the stone and Mahaperiyava disclosed that the footprints are those of [Rama's](#) twins [Lava](#) and [Kusha](#). [Sri Jayendra Saraswati](#) and [Sri Vijayendra Saraswati](#) performed the Kumbabhishekam of the temple on June 23, 2002. In modern times, the temple is maintained and administered by State Institute of Temple Administration (SITA) of the [Government of Andhra Pradesh](#). Palli Kondeswarar translates to reclining deity. Shiva as Palli Kondeswarar is seen in a reclining posture in the lap of his consort [Parvati](#) as Sarva Mangalambika, which is typical of [Ranganatha](#) form of the god [Vishnu](#). The temple was built during the late [Vijayanagara](#) period and the deity here is termed as *Bhoga sayana Siva*.^[3] The temple house a three-tiered gateway tower known as [gopurams](#). This icon of Shiva is unusual; most Shiva temples contain a [Lingam](#), his aniconic symbol, as the central icon. The gods [Ganesha](#), [Kartikeya](#), [Surya](#), [Chandra](#), [Indra](#) and sages such as [Narada](#) are seen standing around Shiva.^[4]

The temple has many icons, besides the central icon for [Brahma](#), [Vishnu](#), [Chandra](#), [Kubera](#), [Surya](#), [Indra](#), [Ganesha](#), [Kartikeya](#) with consorts [Valli](#) and [Devayanai](#). There are icons for sages [Bhrigu](#), [Markandeya](#), [Narada](#), [Agastya](#), [Pulastya](#), [Gautama](#), [Tumburu](#), [Vashista](#), [Viswamitra](#) and [Valmiki](#). [Adishankara](#), another form of Shiva, in a separate niche. There are shrines for [Navagraha](#), the nine planetary deities and [Sanganidhi](#) and [Padumanidhi](#) with their consorts Vasundara and Vasumadhi respectively.^[5]

Deities inside the Temple

- [Palli Kondeswara](#) with [Sarvamangalambika](#)
- [Valmikeswara](#)
- [Maragathambika](#)
- [Ramalingeswara](#)
- [Vinayaka](#)
- [Varasiddhi Vinayaka](#)
- [Subrahmanya](#) with [Devasena](#) and [Valli](#)
- [Saligrama Vinayaka](#)
- [Bala Subramanya Swamy](#)
- [Rajarajeshwari](#)
- [Mahalakshmi](#)
- [Saraswathi](#)
- [Annapoorni](#)
- [Durga Devi](#)
- [Lingodbhava](#)
- [Brahma](#)
- [Bhairava](#)

- Valmiki
- Kubera
- Aiyandar with Poorna and Pushkala
- Ayyappan with Gajavahanam
- Thambathya Dakshinamurthy
- Jwarahareswara
- Vishnu
- Kasi Vishwanathar
- Vishalakshi Amman
- Venugopalaswamy
- Ekapadha Trimurti
- Adhikara Nandi
- Chandikeswarar
- Raja Matangi
- Sapthamatrikas
- Navagrahas
- Nataraja and Sivakami
- Footprints of Lava and Kusha
- Sambandar
- Appar
- Sundarar
- Manikkavacakar
- In Pallikondeswara shrine he is seen in reclining posture on Parvati's lap. Brahma, Vishnu, Markandeya, Narada, Chandra, Kubera, Indra, Surya, Ganesha, Kartikeya with consorts Valli and Deivanai, Bhrgu, Agastya, Pulastya, Tumburu, Gautama, Vasishta, Vishwamitra and Valmiki were surrounded.
- In Ramalingeswara shrine there are shrines for Rama, Sita, Lakshmana, Anjaneya, Bharata and Shatrughna.
- In Maragathambikai shrine instead of Dwarashaktis Kalpavriksha and Kamadhenu were present.
- In Valimikeswara shrine instead of Dwarapalakas Sankhanidhi and Padmanidhi with their consorts were present.

Worship practices



Nandi in front of Pallikondeswara Temple

The temple priests perform the [puja](#) (rituals) during festivals and on a daily basis. Like other Shiva temples of Tamil Nadu, the priests belong to the [Shaiva](#) community, a Brahmin sub-caste. The temple rituals are performed six times a day; Ushathkalam at 6:30 a.m., Kalasanthi at 8:00 a.m., Uchikalam at 12:00 a.m., Sayarakshai at 5:00 p.m., and Ardha Jamam at 8:00 p.m. Each ritual comprises four steps: [abhisheka](#) (sacred bath), [alangaram](#) (decoration), [naivethanam](#) (food offering) and [deepa aradanai](#) (waving of lamps) for both Valmeegeswarar and Maraganthibigai. The worship is held amidst music with [nagaswaram](#) (pipe instrument) and [tavil](#) (percussion instrument), religious instructions in the [Vedas](#) (sacred texts) read by priests and prostration by worshipers in front of the temple mast. There are weekly rituals like [somavaram](#) (Monday) and [sukravaram](#) (Friday), fortnightly rituals like [pradosham](#) and monthly festivals like [amavasai](#) (new moon day), [kiruthigai](#), [pournami](#) (full moon day) and [sathurthi](#). Brahmotsavam during the [Tamil month](#) of [somavaram](#) (September – October), Thiruvadhirai during the month of [Margazhi](#) (December – January) and Annabhishekam during the Tamil month of [Aippasi](#) are the major festivals celebrated in the temple.^[2] Pradosham, the fortnightly festival is celebrated in all the south Indian temples. This temple garners around 15,000 visitors during pradosham and around 30,000 during the [Sivarathri](#) festival.

Ref: Google Gemini

Pallikondeswara Temple, Surutupalle, Andhra Pradesh

The **Sri Pallikondeswara Swamy Temple** in Surutupalle (also spelled Surutapalli) is a legendary, ancient Hindu temple famous for housing Lord Shiva in a rare reclining posture.

1. Location

- **Village:** Surutupalle (Surutapalli)
- **Mandal/District:** Nagari Mandal, Tirupati District (formerly Chittoor District), Andhra Pradesh, India.
- **Position:** Located on the Chennai–Tirupati Highway (NH 205), right on the Tamil Nadu–Andhra Pradesh border, approximately 2 km from Uthukkottai town.

2. How to Get There

- **By Road:**
 - From **Chennai:** ~65 km via Chennai–Tirupati Highway. Direct buses available toward Uthukkottai/Tirupati.
 - From **Tirupati:** ~73 km via Uthukkottai route.

By Train:: Nearest major railway station: **Tiruvallur Railway Station** (~29 km) and **Tirupati Main** (~73 km).

- **By Air:**
 - Nearest airports: **Tirupati Airport (TIR)** (~75 km) and **Chennai International Airport (MAA)** (~70 km).

3. Speciality of This Temple

- **Reclining Lord Shiva (*Sayana Kolam*):** It is considered the **only Shiva temple in the world** where Lord Shiva is worshipped in human form resting/reclining on the lap of Goddess Parvati (similar to Lord Anantha Padmanabha / Ranganatha posture).
- **Origin of Pradosham:** According to temple tradition, the practice of *Pradosha Kala Pooja* originated at this sacred site.
- **Unique Dakshinamurthy:** Unlike standard Shiva temples where Lord Dakshinamurthy is depicted alone in a celibate posture, here He appears along with His consort Goddess Gowri.
- **Vaishnavite Traditions in a Saivite Temple:** Devotees are offered *Theertham* and *Satari* (a ritual common in Vishnu temples).

4. History and Legends

- **Legend of Samudra Manthan (Halahala Poison):** During the churning of the cosmic ocean, the deadly *Halahala* poison emerged. Lord Shiva drank the poison to save the cosmos, and Goddess Parvati held his throat to stop it from descending, turning his neck blue (*Nilakantha*). Exhausted from the toxicity, Shiva rested at Surutupalle placing His head on Parvati's lap (*Bhoga Sayana*) while all Devas, Rishis, and Gods gathered around to check on Him.
- **Historical Construction:** Constructed in the 14th Century CE during the reign of Vijayanagara emperors Harihara I and Bukka Raya I. Later renovations were commissioned by the Kalahasti royalty in the 19th century.
- **Lava-Kusha Footprints:** In 1976, Kanchi Paramacharya (Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswati) stayed here for 40 days, during which ancient divine footprints attributed to Lava and Kusha (sons of Lord Rama) were identified.

5. Architecture

- Built in classic **Dravidian Architecture** style.
- Features a prominent 3-tiered *Rajagopuram* entrance tower.
- Contains twin sanctums (*Dvi-Kuta* style): one housing the traditional Shiva Lingam (*Valmikinathar*) and the adjacent central sanctum housing the reclining *Pallikondeswara Swamy*.
- A large monolithic **Nandi** statue sits on a fenced stone pedestal facing the main shrine.

6. Main Deity and Subdeities

Main Deities

Sri Pallikondeswara Swamy: Lord Shiva in a reclining human form (*Sayana Murti*).

- **Goddess Maragathambigai (Sarva Mangalambika):** His divine consort, seated beside Him.
- **Sri Valmikinathar:** Lord Shiva in Lingam form in the first sanctum.

Subdeities & Shrines

- **Dakshinamurthy with Consort Gowri**
- **Lord Ganesha (Vinayakar)**
- **Lord Kartikeya (Murugan) with Valli & Deivai**
- **Surya & Chandra**
- **Navagraha Shrine**
- **Standing Devas & Rishis (Indra, Brahma, Vishnu, Narada, Kubera)**

7. Daily Rituals, Timings, and Pooja Charges

Temple Timings

- **Morning Session:** 06:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- **Evening Session:** 04:00 PM – 08:00 PM
- *(On Pradosham days, the temple remains open continuously from 06:00 AM to 08:30 PM)*

Entry & Basic Charges

- **General Darshan:** Free
- **Special Express Darshan:** ₹50 per person
- **Pulihora Prasadam:** ₹10

Daily Poojas & Abhishekam Charges (*Indicative*)

Pooja Name	Timings	Approximate Fee
Rudrabhishekam	06:00 AM / 11:00 AM / 05:00 PM	₹516 – ₹2,000
Archana	Available during all open hours	₹10 – ₹50
Sahasranama Archana	Morning / Evening	₹100

8. Special Poojas and Their Charges

Special Pooja	Day / Schedule	Fee (<i>Indicative</i>)	Significance
Dakshinamurthy Abhishekam	Thursdays (5:00 AM)	₹616	Relieves delay in marriage & academic obstacles
Rudra Homam	Mondays (10:30 AM)	₹1,116	For overall health, prosperity & career growth
Maha Pradosha Pooja	Bi-monthly (Trayodashi)	₹250 – ₹1,000	Mitigates karmic debts & health issues
Sani Pradosham Pooja	On Saturdays matching Trayodashi	₹500 – ₹1,500	Highly powerful ritual for planetary remedies

9. Festivals Celebrated

- **Maha Shivaratri:** Grand celebrations with night-long *Jaagaram* and special four-kala Abhishekams.
- **Pradosham (Sani Pradosham in particular):** Draws thousands of pilgrims for grand processions and Nandi Abhishekam.
- **Navaratri & Vijayadasami:** Special alankarams for Goddess Maragathambigai.
- **Aani Tirumanjanam & Karthigai Deepam.**

10. Facilities Available for Devotees

- **Accommodation:** Very limited guest houses directly at the temple. Most pilgrims stay at nearby **Uthukkottai, Tiruvallur, or Tirupati.**
- **Parking:** Dedicated paid vehicle parking area adjacent to the temple premises.
- **Drinking Water & Restrooms:** Basic facilities are available inside/near the temple courtyard.
- **Prasadam Counter:** Sells temple Pulihora, Laddu, and Vada prasadam.

11. Do's and Don'ts

- **Do's:**
 - Wear traditional or modest attire (Dhoti/Kurta for men; Saree/Salwar for women).
 - Maintain silence and sanctity near the Sayana Kolam sanctum.
 - Plan visits on Pradosham or Thursdays if seeking special Abhishekam rituals.
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- **Don'ts:**
 - Photography and videography inside the inner sanctum are strictly prohibited.
 - Leather items (belts, wallets) are generally restricted near the main deity.
 - Avoid wearing shorts, sleeveless, or tight western clothes.

12. Nearby Temples

- **Vedanarayana Swamy Temple, Nagalapuram** (~10 km) – Ancient Vijayanagara-era Matsya Avatar temple.
- **Sri Kalahasteeswara Temple, Srikalahasti** (~60 km) – Renowned Vayu Lingam & Rahu-Ketu Kshetram.
- **Tiruchanur Padmavathi Ammavari Temple** (~68 km).
- **Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Tirumala** (~85 km).

13. Nearby Hotels & Stay Options

- **Uthukkottai Town (2 km away):** Budget lodges, local eateries, and basic boarding houses.
- **Tiruvallur (29 km away):** Mid-range hotels (e.g., Hotel Tamil Nadu, Regency Tiruvallur).

14. Nearby Tourist Spots

- **TP Kota Waterfalls:** ~14 km from the temple.
- **Nagalapuram Waterfalls / Hill Trekking:** ~18 km away.

15. Donation Info & Contact Details

- **Managing Authority:** State Institute of Temple Administration / Endowments Department, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Temple Office Phone Numbers:**
 - +91 73820 05038 / +91 85762 78599
- **Temple Archaka / Priests Contact:**
 - Ganesh Sharma: +91 98295 35741 / +91 88709 87829
- **Donations:** Accepted via the official temple administrative counter for *Annadhanam*, temple maintenance, and special poojas. Official receipts are provided at the temple office.

16. Any Other Info

- **Best Time to Visit:** October to February for pleasant weather conditions.
- **Peak Days:** Saturdays, Thursdays, and Pradosham days see substantial crowds, so budget an extra 1 to 2 hours for darshan.
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Pallikondeswara Temple, Surutupalle, Andhra Pradesh

****Pallikondeswara Temple (also known as Sri Pallikondeswara Swamy Temple or Pradosha Kshetram), Surutupalle / Surutapalli / Suruttapalli, Andhra Pradesh.****

Location

The temple is in Surutupalle village, Nagalapuram Mandal, Tirupati district (formerly part of Chittoor district), Andhra Pradesh, India. It lies on the banks of the Arani (Aruna) River near the Tamil Nadu border, on the Chennai–Tirupati highway (Tirupati Road). Approximate coordinates: 13°9'N 80°18'E. Pin code: 517588 / 517589.

How to Get There

- ****By road****: About 55–70 km from Chennai and 70–75 km from Tirupati. From Chennai, take the GNT Road toward Tirupati via Red Hills / Uthukottai (temple is ~2 km from Uthukottai on the main road). Regular APSRTC and other buses from Chennai, Tirupati, Puttur, Nagari, and Chittoor stop nearby. Taxis and private vehicles are convenient.
- ****By air****: Nearest airports are Chennai (MAA, ~55–70 km) and Tirupati (Renigunta, ~70–75 km).
- ****By train****: Nearest major stations include Tirupati, Srikalahasti (~50–60 km), or Chennai stations; continue by road/taxi/bus.
- Parking is available near the temple.

Speciality of This Temple

It is unique as one of the rare temples (often called the only one of its kind) where Lord Shiva appears in a reclining/human form (*Sayana Shiva* or *Bhoga Sayana Siva*), resting his head on the lap of Goddess Parvati (Sarvamangala Devi / Sarva Mangalambika), rather than in the usual Lingam form. This resembles Vishnu's Anantasayana posture. It is a renowned ****Pradosha Kshetram****—the place where Pradosha worship is believed to have originated. Special significance is attached to Pradosham (especially Sani Pradosham), which draws large crowds (~15,000 on Pradosham days). Devotees seek relief from obstacles, Shani dosha, marriage delays, recovery of losses, and marital harmony. It is also linked to Sage Valmiki and is sometimes associated with Pancha Brahma Sthalams.

History and Legends

During Samudra Manthan (churning of the ocean of milk), Shiva consumed the Halahala/Kalakuta poison to save the worlds. Parvati stopped it in his throat (making him Neelakantha). Feeling slightly dizzy/exhausted afterward, Shiva rested here with his head on Parvati's lap while gods and sages waited around him. "Surutta" refers to being a little dizzy

and “Palli” to resting, giving the place its name (also called Kalakuta Sayana Kshetram or Surakotipalli). Pradosham originated when the Devas and Asuras later prayed to Shiva in gratitude after obtaining Amrita.

The temple was built by Vijayanagara king Harihara / Bukka Raya (around 1344–47). Some sources mention earlier Chola-period origins or associations. It was renovated by a Kalahasti princess in 1833. Sri Chandrashekarendra Saraswati (Kanchi Mahaperiyava) stayed here for 40 days in 1976 and identified footprints of Lava and Kusha. Kumbhabhishekam was performed by Sri Jayendra and Vijayendra Saraswati in 2002. It is now administered by the State Institute of Temple Administration (SITA), Government of Andhra Pradesh. Local renovations have also taken place in recent decades.

Architecture

Dravidian style with a three-tiered *gopuram* (gateway tower) facing east. The complex has two main shrines (one for the reclining Shiva and one for the Lingam form of Valmikeswara), separate *dwajasthambams*, Mahamandapa, Mukhamandapa, Antaralayam, and Garbhalayam. There are spacious courtyards, halls, three precincts, and numerous sub-shrines. Intricate sculptures depict the central reclining icon and surrounding deities/sages. A Pradosha Nandi Mandapam is notable. The atmosphere is serene with greenery.

Main Deity and Subdeities

- ****Main****: Pallikondeswara (Shiva in reclining posture, ~6 feet, on the lap of Sarvamangala Devi / Sarva Mangalambika). Surrounding figures include Brahma, Vishnu, Ganesha, Kartikeya (with consorts), Surya, Chandra, Indra, Kubera, and many sages (Narada, Markandeya, Agastya, Valmiki, etc.).
- ****Prominent other****: Valmikeswara (Swayambhu Lingam, associated with Sage Valmiki) and Maragathambigai / Maragathambika (Parvati).
- **Other shrines/deities**: Vinayaka (including Saligrama and Varasiddhi forms), Subrahmanya, Dakshinamurthy (Thambathya form), Navagrahas, Kubera with Sanganidhi & Padmanidhi, Ayyappa/Sastha, Kasi Viswanatha with Vishalakshi, various forms of Devi (Durga, Annapoorna, etc.), Nataraja, footprints of Lava-Kusha, and more. Many deities appear with their consorts.

Daily Rituals and Poojas and Their Charges

Temple timings (approximate; confirm locally as they can vary): Morning ~6:00/6:30 AM–12:00/1:00 PM; Evening ~3:30/4:00 PM–8:00/8:30 PM. On Pradosham days, often open continuously from morning until evening (~8:30 PM).

Six daily rituals: Ushatkalam (~6:30 AM), Kalasanthi (~8:00 AM), Uchikalam (~12:00 PM), Sayarakshai (~5:00 PM), Ardha Jamam (~8:00 PM), etc. Each typically includes abhisheka, alangaram, naivedyam, and deepa aradhana.

****Charges**** (approximate and subject to change; recent 2026 hikes reported—verify at the temple counter or official sources):

- General darshan: Free.
- Special/quicker darshan: Around ₹50.
- Archana / basic offerings: Low fees (historically ₹5–150 range for various).
- Abhishekam: Reported around ₹516 (for 2 persons; materials may be required or provided); Rudrabhishekam higher (~₹1,116 in recent updates).
- Other daily sevas vary. Materials for some abhishekams (milk, garlands, etc.) may need to be brought or purchased.

Special Poojas and Their Charges

- ****Pradosha Seva / Abhishekam****: Highly important (especially Sani Pradosham). Tickets for reserved/Nandi areas reported around ₹500–1,000 (recent hike). Large crowds.
- Dakshinamurthy Abhishekam (Thursday, for marriage-related issues): Previously ~₹216–1,116; recent reports of hike to ~₹2,116.
- Permanent/Saswatha Abhishekam: Significantly increased (reports of ₹3,000 to ₹10,000).
- **Marriage ceremonies**: Increased (reports of ~₹3,116 to ₹5,116).
- **special sevas** (e.g., Nandi Abhishekam, Kalyanotsavam) available. Book at the temple counter; some may be bookable via AP Endowments channels. Charges fluctuate—confirm currently.

Festivals Celebrated

- ****Pradosham**** (fortnightly on Trayodashi, especially Sani Pradosham): Major draw.
- ****Maha Shivaratri**** (Feb–Mar): Very large crowds (~30,000+); all-night observances.
- ****Aipasi / Aippasi Annabishekam**** (Oct–Nov): Major festival.
- ****Thiruvadhirai / Arudra Darshan**** (Dec–Jan).
- Other: Brahmotsavam, Kartika Deepam, Navaratri, monthly Amavasai/Pournami, etc.

Facilities Available for Devotees (Such as Accommodation)

Limited accommodation in the small village of Surutupalle itself. Basic facilities (restrooms, drinking water, parking) exist at the temple. Package tours covering the temple are sometimes operated from TTD guest houses in Tirupati (e.g., Vishnu Nivasam, Srinivasam). Stay options are better in nearby towns (Uthukottai, Puttur, Nagalapuram) or major cities like Chennai and Tirupati (wide range of hotels from budget to luxury).

Do's and Don'ts

- Dress modestly/decently (traditional preferred: men—dhoti/pants + shirt; women—saree/salwar). No strict code but Western/revealing clothes discouraged.
- Maintain silence and reverence; switch mobiles to silent; avoid photography if restricted and do not touch carvings/idols improperly.
- Follow queue systems; special consideration for elderly/disabled.
- On Pradosham and festival days, expect heavy crowds—arrive early.
- Remove footwear as required; respect all rituals and priests.

Nearby Temples

- Nagalapuram (Veda Narayana Swamy / Perumal Temple, Matsya Avatar form) — ~11 km.
- Other temples in the Tirupati / Srikalahasti region (e.g., Srikalahasti Temple for Rahu-Ketu).
- Temples en route or nearby on the Chennai–Tirupati corridor.

Nearby Hotels

Limited options very close by. Better choices in:

- Puttur / Uthukottai area (budget lodges and mid-range).
- Tirupati (many options including TTD guest houses and private hotels).
- Chennai (extensive range, ~1–1.5 hours away).

Search current listings on travel sites for the latest availability and rates.

Nearby Tourist Spots

- Tirupati / Tirumala (Balaji Temple) — major pilgrimage center.
- Srikalahasti Temple.
- Local scenic areas around the Arani River and hills.
- Other heritage sites in Tirupati district.

Donation Info with Contact Phone Number

Donations can be made at the temple for various sevas, annadanam, or general upkeep. Online options may be available via AP Temples / Endowments portals (e.g., aptemples.ap.gov.in for schemes like annadanam).

****Contact**:**

- **Phone:** +91 73820 05038; also reported 08576-278599 / 08576-274971.
 - **Address:** Sri Pallikondeeswaraswamy Devasthanam, Surutapalli, Nagalapuram Mandal, Tirupati / Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh 517588/517589.
- Confirm current details and donation procedures directly, as they can change.

Any Other Info

The temple is well-maintained and popular with devotees from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Best visited outside peak summer heat; Pradosham and major festivals see very high footfall. It offers a peaceful spiritual experience focused on Shiva's compassionate act of consuming the poison. For the most accurate current timings, seva rates, and bookings, contact the temple directly or check official Andhra Pradesh temple administration sources, as details (especially charges) are subject to revision.

This summary is compiled from available public sources; always verify practical details (timings, fees, facilities) closer to your visit.

Pallikondeswara Temple, Surutupalli, Andhra Pradesh

Location

The temple is in Surutupalli (also spelled Surutapalli/Suruttapalli), Nagalapuram Mandal, Tirupati district (formerly Chittoor district), Andhra Pradesh — right on the Chennai–Tirupati highway, close to the Tamil Nadu border. It sits on the banks of the river Arani, close to the border of Tamil Nadu. (HinduPost) Full address: Sri Pallikondeswara Swamy Temple, Surutapalli, Nagalapuram Mandalam, Sathyavedu (via), Tirupati District – 517588.

How to Get There

By road: It's located on the Chennai-Tirupati Highway; Tirupati to Surutapalli is about 73–75 km, and Chennai is roughly 56–60 km away. (Triphippies) Buses from Tirupati to Chennai usually pass via Surutapalli. (Xplore All) Auto rickshaws are readily available from Uthukottai for the short 2–5 km trip. (Triphippies)

By train: Tirupati Railway Station, around 55 km away, is the closest major railway station, from where you can hire a cab or take a local bus. (Cosmo View)

By air: Sri Venkateswara International Airport in Tirupati is the closest, about 65 km away, with taxis readily available. (Cosmo View)

Speciality of This Temple

This is a rare Shiva temple — most Shiva shrines only have a lingam, but here Shiva is seen in a reclining posture on the lap of his consort Devi Parvati (Sarva Mangalambika), typical of Vishnu's Ranganatha form but very rare for Shiva, (HinduPost) and the icon is a full vigraha (idol form) rather than the usual linga form. (HinduPost) The idol is a striking 16-foot silver image of Bhoga Sayana Shiva. (Om Spiritual Shop) Uniquely, the temple has two sanctums — one with a Shiva lingam and an adjacent one with the reclining Pallikondeeswarar. (Visittemples) It's also considered the birthplace of the Pradosha pooja tradition, and Lord Dakshinamurthy appears here with his consort Dhara — a very rare pairing. (Xplore All)

History and Legends

During the Samudra Manthan (churning of the ocean of milk), a lethal poison, Halahala, emerged; Shiva consumed it to save creation, and Parvati clamped his throat to trap it, turning it blue. (Om Spiritual Shop) After the episode, Shiva set off to Kailash with Parvati, but on the way, feeling exhausted, he reached this spot in Andhra and lay down to rest with his head on Parvati's lap. (Temples of India) The gods, anxious about his wellbeing, gathered around him waiting for him to wake (Temples in India Info) — hence the many deity shrines surrounding the sanctum. Regarding the name: "Palli" means resting and "Surutta" means slightly dizzy, referring to Shiva resting after being dizzied by the poison.

(Velpu) The temple was constructed by King Harihara Bukka Raya of the Vijayanagara Empire during 1344–47. (Temples in India Info)

Architecture

Built in late Vijayanagara Dravidian style, (Om Spiritual Shop) the temple has a three-tier Raja Gopuram that was recently renovated into a five-tier tower carved with Hindu deities, (Velpu) plus spacious walled courtyards and multiple halls. The temple has numerous shrines, with those of Valmeegeeswarar and Maragathambigai being the most prominent, and houses many halls across three precincts. (Wikipedia) The temple faces east.

Main Deity and Subdeities

Main deity: Pallikondeswara Swamy (Shiva), reclining, about 6 feet, also known as Neelakantha (Velpu)

Consort: Goddess Parvati as Sarva Mangalambika/Marakathambigai, seated with the Lord's head on her lap, flanked by Kamadhenu and the Kalpavriksha tree (Velpu)

Other shrines/deities: Valmeegishwarar–Maragathambikai, Vinayaka with Siddhi & Buddhi, Sastha with Poornai & Pushkalai, Kubera with Sanganidhi & Padumanidhi, Dakshinamurthy with Tara, and Kasi Viswanathar with Visalakshi. (Temples in India Info) There are also shrines for Muruga, Brahma, Vishnu, sages Bhrigu, Markandeya, Narada, the Saptha Rishis, and the planets Moon, Sun, Kubera and Indra. (Temples in India Info)

Rituals and Poojas

The temple conducts six daily rituals at different times ranging from 6:30 AM to 9:00 PM. (Temples in India Info) Typical darshan/aarti timings observed by visitors:

Darshan: 6:00 AM–1:00 PM and 3:30 PM–8:30 PM (Triphippies)

Aarti: 6:00–7:00 AM, 11:00 AM–12:00 PM, and around 5:00 PM (Triphippies)

Charges: Reliable published rupee figures for individual seva/pooja tickets aren't consistently available online, and rates change over time. It's best to confirm current pooja/seva prices directly at the temple counter or via the contact numbers below.

Special Poojas

Pradosha Pooja — the temple's signature ritual. Performed on Pradosha days (13th lunar day of each fortnight), evening timing roughly 4:30–6:30 PM; it's said to help relieve poverty, miseries, debts and afflictions. (Yercaud) When Pradosha falls on a Saturday (Shani Pradosham), it's especially significant — devotees who've had setbacks may find restoration. (Temples in India Info)

Sani (Saturn) Pooja — more than 15,000 devotees visit specially for this. (Blogger)

Dakshinamurthy parihara (appeasement) pooja — popular for those seeking remedies. (Scribd)

Again, exact costs should be checked with the temple office.

Festivals Celebrated

Aipassi Annabishekam — the temple's most major festival (Darshan Booking)

Maha Shivaratri — around 30,000 devotees gather for darshan (Blogger)

Pradosham (fortnightly, with special emphasis)

Kartik Purnima

In total, five annual festivals are celebrated at the temple. (Temples in India Info)

Facilities for Devotees

Accommodation in Surutupalli itself is limited. (Tirumala Tirupati Yatra) Nearby options include SAM Resorts and similar lodges around Uthukottai/Nagalapuram (see below).

The AP Department of Tourism runs package tours from TTD's Vishnu Nivasam and Srinivasam rest houses in Tirupati that include a visit to this temple (Tirumala Tirupati Yatra) — worth checking the official TTD website.

Prasadam counter — visitors describe the prasadam as delicious. (Tripadvisor)

Amenities (drinking water, footwear stands, restrooms) are available on the temple premises; it's now well-maintained by SITA (State Institute of Temple Administration).

Do's and Don'ts

- Men are expected to wear a dhoti and kurta; women a saree or salwar suit — a dress code is enforced to maintain sanctity. (Triphippies)
- Maintain silence and decorum inside the sanctum areas; photography of the deity is typically restricted (check locally).
- Footwear must be removed before entering the temple.

The best time to visit for a calmer experience is on weekdays; Pradosham days, Saturdays, and festival days see heavy crowds.

Nearby Temples

- Sri Nagalapuram Perumal (Vedagiri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy) Temple, Nagalapuram — a notable nearby attraction (Poojn.in)
- Uthukottai temples, Tamil Nadu — Uthukottai (5 km) is known for its ancient temples and heritage (Cosmo View)

Nearby Tourist Spots

- Sri Venkateswara National Park (~40 km) — known for diverse wildlife and scenic landscapes (Cosmo View)
- Nagalapuram Falls (Poojn.in)
- Tirupati/Tirumala (major pilgrim hub, ~73–75 km)

Nearby Hotels

- Most established hotels are concentrated around Tirupati (roughly 50+ km away) rather than in Surutupalli village itself. Locally mentioned options:
- SAM Resorts (contact: 0877-244 2270) — offers comfortable accommodation near the temple (Cosmo View)
- Sri Venkateswara Residency and other lodges near Nagalapuram/Uthukottai

- For a wider range with amenities, Tirupati town is the reliable base.

Donation Info and Contact

Temple contact numbers: 07382005038, 08576-278599 (Xplore All)

Administration: The temple is maintained and administered by the State Institute of Temple Administration (SITA), Government of Andhra Pradesh. (Wikipedia)

Since it falls under SITA/state temple administration, donation (hundi) receipts and any tax-exemption details are best confirmed directly with the temple office via the numbers above, as there isn't a standardized public donation portal like TTD's for this temple.

Other Useful Info

Best season to visit: winter, September to February (Velpu) — summers (March–July) can hit around 42°C during the day. (Velpu)

The temple was in a fairly neglected state in the late 1990s but has since been **extensively renovated** — a visitor who first came in 1998 noted it was dirty then, but by 2016 the structures and courtyard were beautifully redone. (Tripadvisor)

Note: Since pooja charges, exact accommodation options, and some contact details can change, it's worth calling the temple numbers above to confirm current rates and timings before you visit.

Pallikondeswara Temple, Surutupalle (Surutapalli), Andhra Pradesh



Pallikondeswara Temple, Surutupalle (Surutapalli), Andhra Pradesh

Location

- **Village:** Surutupalle (Surutapalli), Nagalapuram Mandal
- **District:** Tirupati district (earlier Chittoor district), Andhra Pradesh
- **Position:** On the Chennai–Tirupati highway, just beyond the Tamil Nadu–Andhra border, about 2 km from Uthukottai. [1][2][3][4]
- **Coordinates:** 13°9'N 80°18'E. [5]

How to Get There

- **By Air:**
 - Chennai International Airport – approx. 60–68 km
 - Tirupati Airport – approx. 70–75 km [1][2][4]
- **By Train:**
 - Nearest major railheads: Chennai Central / Egmore and Tirupati. From there, take a bus or taxi via Uthukottai to Surutapalli. [3]

- **By Road / Bus:**
 - On the main Chennai–Tirupati NH route; most buses between Chennai and Tirupati pass via Uthukottai–Surutapalli.
 - From Uthukottai (Tamil Nadu side): temple is about 2 km on the main road. [1][3][6]
- **Self-drive:** Well-connected, good road from Chennai (via Red Hills–Padi–Periapalayam–Uthukottai) and from Tirupati. [2][6]

Speciality of This Temple

- **Unique deity form:** Lord Shiva as **Pallikondeswara** (“the Lord who reclines”) is seen in a **sleeping/reclining posture** on the lap of Goddess Parvati (Maragathambigai/Sarvamangalambika). This “Bhoga Sayana” form is usually associated with Vishnu, making this Shiva temple rare. [5][2][4]
- **Pradosha Kshetram:** Regarded as a very powerful **Pradosham** shrine; large crowds gather on Pradosham days. [5][2]
- **Two sanctums:** One for the Shiva Lingam (Valmikeswarar) and another for the reclining Pallikondeswara. [1][2]
- **Vaishnava-style rituals:** In the Pallikondeswara sanctum, devotees receive **theertham** and **satthaari** (like in Vishnu temples) instead of vibhuti. [1][2]

History and Legends

- **Samudra Manthan legend:** During the churning of the ocean, Shiva drank the deadly poison Halahala. Parvati held it at his throat (Neelakanta). Afterward, exhausted by the poison’s effect, Shiva rested here on Parvati’s lap—hence the name Pallikondeswara and the place-name Surutapalli (from “Suras” gathering). [2][4][5]
- **construction:** Built in the **late Vijayanagara period**; inscriptions attribute initial construction to **King Harihara Bukka Raya (1344–47)** and later renovations (e.g., by Kalahasti princess in 1833). [5][2]
- **Kanchi Maha Swamigal:** Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Swamigal is said to have camped here for 40 days; he pointed out a spot where footprints believed to be of **Lava and Kusha** were found. [5][2]
- **Kumbhabhishekam:** Conducted in 2002 by Sri Jayendra Saraswati and Sri Vijayendra Saraswati. [5]

Architecture

- **Style:** Dravidian architecture with a **three-tiered gopuram**, large prakarams (courtyards), mandapams, and multiple shrines. [5][2]
- **Key features:**
 - Big **Pradosha Maha Nandi** facing the sanctum.
 - Separate shrines for **Maragathambigai**, **Valmikeswarar**, **Ramalingeswarar**, **Dakshinamurthy** with Ambal (Thambathya Dakshinamurthy), Navagrahas, etc. [5][2]
 - Sculptures of sages (Narada, Markandeya, Bhrgu, Agastya, Valmiki, etc.) around the reclining Shiva. [5][2]

Main Deity and Sub-deities

- **MOOLAVAR** (main deity):
 - **Sri Pallikondeswara Swamy** (Shiva in reclining posture) with **Goddess Maragathambigai / Sarvamangalambika (Parvati)**. [1][5][2]
- **Other important deities/shrines**:
 - **Valmikeswarar** (Swayambu Lingam)
 - **Maragathambigai** (separate sannidhi, Simha vahini)
 - **Ramalingeswarar**
 - **Vinayaka** (including Saligrama Vinayaka, Varasiddhi Vinayaka)
 - **Subramanya** with Valli & Devasena (and Bala Subramanya)
 - **Dakshinamurthy** with Ambal (Thambathya Dakshinamurthy) – considered unique
 - **Navagrahas**, **Kubera** with Sanganidhi & Padmanidhi, **Bhairava**, **Durga**, **Mahalakshmi**, **Saraswathi**, **Annapoorni**, **Rajarajeshwari**, **Aiyandar**, **Ayyappan**, **Nataraja–Sivakami**, **Chandikeswarar**, **Jwarahareswara**, **Ekapadha Trimurti**, **Adhikara Nandi**, **Saptha Matrikas**, **Raja Matangi**, and footprints of **Lava–Kusha**. [5][2]

Daily Rituals and Poojas (and indicative charges)

- **Temple timings (general)**:
 - Morning: **6:00 AM – 1:00 PM**
 - Evening: **3:30/4:00 PM – 8:30 PM**
 - On **Pradosham days**: often open continuously from 6:00 AM to 8:30 PM. [1][7][8][9][10]
- **Daily pooja sequence (6 times a day)**:
 - Ushathkalam (~6:30 AM), Kalasanthi (~8:00 AM), Uchikalam (~12:00 PM), Sayarakshai (~5:00 PM), Ardha Jamam (~8:00 PM), with abhishekam, alangaram, naivedyam, and deepa aradanai. [5]
- **Sample poojas and charges (as seen in temple sources; may vary slightly)**:
 - **Special Darshan ticket**: around **₹50** per person. [10]
 - **Maha Harathi Darshan**: ~₹25
 - **Kumkumarchana**: ~₹50
 - **Nithya Archana**: ~₹100
 - **Abhishekam (ticket only)**: ~₹150
 - **Dakshina Murthy Abhishekam**: ~₹216
 - **Trayodasi Abhishekam**: ~₹400
 - **Marriage (Kalyanotsavam) ticket**: ~₹516
 - **Saswatha Abhishekam**: ~₹3,000
 - Some sources also mention **Abhishekam ~₹30**, **Kalyanotsavam ~₹500**, and small entry/special darshan fees of **₹5–₹25**; exact current rates should be confirmed at the temple counter. [9][11]

Special Poojas and Their Charges

- **Pradosha Kala Pooja**: Special rituals around sunset on Trayodashi (Pradosham); temple often remains open continuously. High significance; large crowds. [5][2][11]
- **Trayodasi Abhishekam**: Offered as a special ticketed service (~₹400). [9]

- **Kalyanotsavam (Marriage ceremony):** Ticketed (~₹516 as per one source; other sources ~₹500). [9][11]
- **Saswatha Abhishekam:** Long-term/perpetual abhishekam option (~₹3,000). [9]
- **Nei Deepams (ghee lamps):** Devotees (especially youth facing marriage delays) light ghee lamps equal to their age before **Thambathya Dakshinamurthy** as a special vow practice. [2]

Festivals Celebrated

- **Pradosham (fortnightly)** – major attraction. [5][2]
- **Maha Shivaratri** – large gatherings (around 30,000 devotees reported). [5]
- **Aippasi Annabishekam** (Oct–Nov) – described as the major annual festival. [5][2]
- **Thiruvadhirai** (Dec–Jan)
- **Navaratri**, **Somavaram** (Monday), **Sukravaram** (Friday), **Amavasai**, **Pournami**, **Kiruthigai**, **Sathurthi**. [5][2]

Facilities for Devotees

- **Darshan:** Free general darshan; special darshan tickets available. [10][11]
- **Parking:** Managed parking with a small fee (often around ₹30 for vehicles). [1][11]
- **Accommodation:**
 - Limited/no large temple-run choultry complex highlighted in main sources; most devotees stay in **Uthukottai, Tiruvallur, Chennai, or Tirupati**.
 - Some guest houses / lodges may be available locally; for comfortable stay, plan in nearby towns. [2][12]
- **Basic amenities:** Shops selling pooja items, rest areas, and managed parking are mentioned. [1]

Do's and Don'ts

- **Do's:**
 - Dress modestly (traditional/decant clothing preferred). [2]
 - Observe silence and decorum, especially in the inner sanctums.
 - Follow queue and ticketing system for special darshan/poojas.
 - Use designated parking; keep the temple premises clean.
- **Don'ts:**
 - Avoid non-vegetarian food, alcohol, and smoking in and around the temple.
 - Do not touch idols, lamps, or restricted areas inside sanctums.
 - Avoid loud conversations, mobile phones in sanctum areas, and photography where prohibited.

Nearby Temples

- **Uthukottai area (Tamil Nadu side):** Local Shiva and Amman temples along the Chennai–Tirupati route.
- **Tiruvallur:** Numerous Shiva and Vishnu temples in and around Tiruvallur town.
- **Towards Tirupati:** Many famous temples (Venkateswara, Kapileswara, etc.) within 70–75 km. [1][3]

Nearby Hotels

- Most visitors stay in:
 - **Uthukottai / Tiruvallur** (budget to mid-range lodges)
 - **Chennai** (wide range of hotels, ~60–68 km)
 - **Tirupati** (full range of pilgrim accommodation, ~70–75 km)
- Online travel sites list a few hotels near Surutapalli, but options are limited; average indicated prices are around **₹5,400–₹5,600/night** for nearby properties, though many cheaper options exist in Uthukottai/Tiruvallur/Chennai. [1][12][13]

Nearby Tourist Spots

- **Chennai:** Temples, beaches, museums (~60–68 km).
- **Tirupati–Tirumala:** Tirumala Venkateswara Temple, Kapila Theertham, Sri Venkateswara Museum, etc. (~70–75 km). [1][3]
- **Periapalayam:** Famous **Periyapalayathu Amman Temple** on the Chennai–Tirupati route. [2]
- **Kalahasti:** Sri Kalahasteeswara Temple (Rahu Kshetram) ~60 km from here. [3]

Donation Info and Contact Numbers

- **Temple Office / Devasthanam contacts (commonly cited):**
 - **073820 05038**
 - **08576-278599**
 - **Temple Archaga:** **Ganesh Sharma – 98295 35741 / 88709 87829** [1][7][2][4][9]
- Donations can usually be made at the temple hundi or through the office; for specific schemes (annadanam, saswatha abhishekam, etc.), call the above numbers for current procedures and bank details.

Any Other Useful Information

- **Languages:** Telugu and Tamil are widely spoken; some English is understood at counters. [2]
- **Best time to visit:** Throughout the year; **Pradosham days** and **Aippasi Annabishekam** The period are especially auspicious but crowded. [2]
- **Climate:** Hot summers (33–42°C), mild winters (22–28°C); coastal plain, sea-level altitude. [2]
- **Photography:** Often restricted inside sanctums; check with temple staff.
- **Accessibility:** The temple is on the highway with road access; parking is available, but internal movement may involve steps typical of old Dravidian temples.

Videos

History of Pallikondeswara Swamy Temple...2023 Shivaratri special..Suman TV (7 min):

<https://youtu.be/JaBKzHcvCDE?si=c1md6xXmmqvtmizv>

Pallikondeswara Swamy Temple..Teerthayatra (16 min):

<https://youtu.be/2wyJmGmKOOg?si=vtVVLbpVEwCJy0nN>

Pallikondeswara Swamy Temple...FaceBook (1.23 min):

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1D2JMUUpik/>

Unknown history of Pallikondeswara Swamy Temple (3 min):

<https://youtu.be/e2Jtuoc1VCY?si=ESbnNkMyVy9peMA6>

Visiting Pallikondeswara Swamy Temple (6 min):

<https://youtu.be/XpE-yt870A8?si=vlbCpKOZDFv7pXd0>

Pallikondeswara Swamy Temple...Parichaya.. Kannada (6 min):

https://youtu.be/cHosKnfsQkk?si=Uq1d6FpJwyoKZbZ_

Note: At the end of this ebook, two pages are included (see below), giving (i) Author info, and (ii) a master link and QR code to download all my Technical (viz. Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering) ebooks plus Spiritual ebooks, stored in archive.org.

About the Author

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar is a Mechanical Engineer with specialization in Cryogenics. He obtained his B. E. In Mechanical Engineering from Karnataka Regional Engg College, (Now NITK), Surathkal, India and M.Sc. in Cryogenics from the University of Southampton, U.K., and Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

He has worked in prestigious organizations such as BARC, Bombay and Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT), Indore, as Head of Cryogenics Dept and contributed to the design of cryogenic systems, including the Thermovac chamber for ISRO, Bangalore.

He was also a visiting fellow at Superconducting Super Collider Project, at Texas, USA.

He has also served as Professor, Head of Department, and Principal in reputed engineering institutions.

Dr. Thirumaleshwar has authored a large number of FREE ebooks on Engineering subjects such as Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering, which are useful for students and teachers.

Driven by a deep interest in India's spiritual heritage, he has also authored many FREE ebooks on Temples, Saints, Gurus, and Vedic topics, with the aim of preserving and spreading this knowledge to future generations.

All his ebooks are available for free download at [Archive.org](https://archive.org).

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
August 6, 2026
